GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4992
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000
INFILTRATION
RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `don`t blame us for infiltration: Musharraf` appearing in the Statesman dated March 10, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a)-(b) Yes, Sir. Government have seen the report appearing in the Statesman on 10th March, 2000 reporting the views of General Pervez Musharraf.

(c) Such propagandist statements by Pakistani leaders are designed to deflect the increasing concern being expressed by the international community about Pakistan`s continued role in the sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in the State of Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India. Pakistan has continued to indulge in unprovoked firing across the Line of Control and the International Border in Jammu & Kashmir, to provide cover to infiltrating terrorists, as well as to attract international attention so as to seek third party involvement in India-Pakistan relations. Government remain firm in their resolve to take all necessary measures to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.